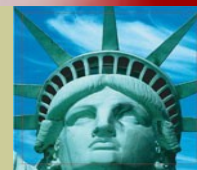




October 2009

Around The Corner

The U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam's Newsletter



At Your Service



EXPATICA

U.S. Consulate General joins Expatica's "i am not a tourist" Fair.

Join the U.S. Consulate General's office of American Citizen Services at the 6th annual "i am not a tourist" Fair on **Sunday, 25 October**, and get a handle on your life in Holland. Get the advice you need, attend some fun and useful workshops, and mix with thousands of other internationals! Consult experts from a range of institutions: Banks, investment and tax firms, universities, schools, groups and clubs. These fellow internationals will be there to offer the guidance and advice you need. Attend presentations on: Landing that perfect job, raising a family abroad, acclimatizing to a new culture and more. Join a workshop on sushi making, salsa dancing, or whiskey tasting. Enjoy: Stand-up comedy, dance performances, art, or fun for the kids.

Whether you've lived here for 10 days or 10 years, you won't regret attending! Get your FREE tickets now at: www.expatica.com.

-Expatica

September 11, 2001 Remembered

On the afternoon of September 11, 2009, Consul General Julie Ruterbories organized and spoke at an interfaith September 11th Remembrance Service. Representatives of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths offered prayers and readings from their traditions, urging unity and compassion. The moving hymnal, *The Lord's Prayer*, sung by Christa Oudshoorn-Hobo was followed by Girl Scout Eden Tweedie's reading of the poem, "If I knew You & You Knew Me" by Nixon Waterman. The service was followed by a reception during which the audience met and discussed the event with the participants and each other. The ceremony gave the community the opportunity to gather and remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

- Tara Cummins



CG Ruterbories with the participants in the September 11th Remembrance Service at the English Reformed Church, Amsterdam.

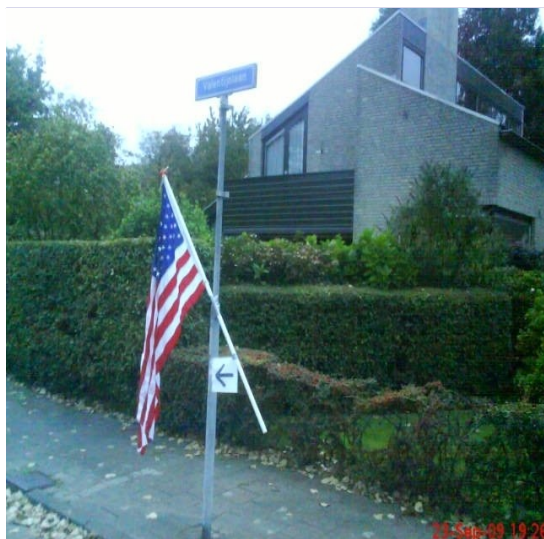
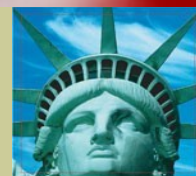
**The U.S. Consulate General
will be closed on November
11th, 2009 in observance of
U.S. Veterans Day.**



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Dorinda Farver, host of the Breda outreach event, lined the road leading to her home with large U.S. flags and arrows leading the way. The flags were a patriotic welcome for clients and staff alike.

Success! American Citizen Services was in YOUR Neighborhood!

During September, demand for American Citizen Services (ACS) at the U.S. Consulate General drops to its lowest monthly level. The Consulate took advantage of this seasonal lull to provide services off-site in three major Dutch cities: The Hague, Groningen and Breda. Passport renewals, mostly for minor children, accounted for two-thirds of the services provided. Other services included Consular Reports of Births Abroad (CRBA), visa pages, Social Security applications, and notariats. Services were provided at a host home or business during the evening or on a Saturday afternoon to maximize convenience for working clients. Many thanks to our hosts for

their gracious hospitality.

Clients, particularly parents with young children, commented favorably on the outreach efforts and praised the Consulate General for the outreach program. Although the Netherlands is a small and densely populated country with excellent public transportation, the travel time by train or car to the country's sole U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam can take several hours. Based on the positive client feedback, we plan to make the September outreach an annual event and will expand publicity efforts. If you are interested in hosting a future outreach event please send an email to

AmsterdamOutreach@state.gov.

-Daniel B. King



American Women's Club holds their kick-off event at the U.S. Consulate General, Amsterdam.

Consul General Julie A. Ruterbories spoke at the American Women's Club of Amsterdam's Professional Women's Group Kick-off event hosted at the Consulate General. Many of the American Women's Club of Amsterdam's board members and members, most of whom are working women, attended the event. CG

Ruterbories told the audience about her career as a diplomat in the foreign service and encouraged them to continue to pursue their careers with hard work and passion.

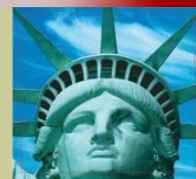
-Christa Oudshoorn-Hobo



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400 Years of Shared Dutch American History, Where Do We Go From Here?

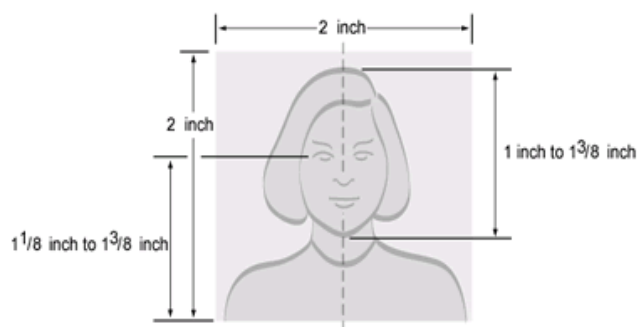
On October 21, 2009, Consul General Julie A. Ruterbories will be the guest speaker at the ABC Treehouse, followed by Consul Andrew Webster-Main on November 18, 2009. Both will speak at The ABC Clubhouse as a part of the lecture series that The American Book Center and the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam are hosting entitled, "400 Years of Shared Dutch American History, Where Do We Go From Here?"

Each of these discussion evenings feature a different topic emerging from Dutch and American shared values, led by a diplomat from the U.S. Consulate General. For more information on this lecture series and it's speakers, please visit the ABC website at www.treehouse.abc.nl.

-Tara Cummins

The U.S. Consulate General will be closed on November 26th, 2009, in celebration of Thanksgiving Day.

F.A.Q: What type of passport picture do I need to have when I come in for service at the U.S. Consulate General?



Though the State Department introduced a new required passport photo format many years ago, we still see applicants who present the wrong format photo. This causes undue delay in providing and receiving the service you request from the Consulate General.

The correct U.S. document photo format is a square 2" x 2", or 51 x 51 millimeters. The background must be white or at least off white. This format is required for all consular services, be it a U.S. passport application, a temporary or immigrant visa application.

Our photo instruction pages have more information and a partial list of photography studios in The Netherlands that have informed the Consulate they can provide photos in the U.S. format. They can be found at Amsterdam.usconsulate.gov.

-Frank de Koning

You Are Invited!

The U.S. Consulate General invites you to join us at our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration on Thursday, November 26, 2009, 17.00 (5:00p.m.), at the English Reformed Church in Amsterdam. The evening will include an inter-faith service followed by refreshments.